

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 AMMAN 02015 151152Z

22

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13 ACDA-07

SAM-01 SAJ-01 /091 W

----- 077881

O R 151059Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7585

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2015

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, UR

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN PRESS ON PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S COMMENTS
ON HAWK AIR DEFENSE

1. JORDANIAN PRESS 15 APRIL BANNER HEADLINES RIFAI'S LONDON
TIMES PRESS INTERVIEW (LONDON 5788 HOTEL), ADDING TO STORY CLAIM
THAT SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS JORDAN IS PREPARED FOR GOJ TO SEEK
WEAPONS FROM SOVIET UNION. ONLY OTHER DIFFERENCE IN COVERAGE
OF RIFAI'S REMARKS IS AR-RAYY EDITORIAL'S ASSERTION THAT US
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HAWK MISSILE PRICE INCREASE,
NOT CONGRESS WHICH EDITORIAL BLAMES FOR TRYING TO RESTRICT USE
OF MISSILES AND TIMING OF THEIR DELIVERY TO JORDAN.

2. EDITORIALS IN GOJ-CONNECTED AR-RAYY AND AD DUSTOUR PARTICULARLY
VEHEMENT, FOCUSING ON COMPARISON BETWEEN US ARMS SUPPLIES TO
ISRAEL ON ONE HAND AND ON OTHER TO ARABS IN GENERAL AND JORDAN
IN PARTICULAR. AD DUSTOUR CALLS THAT DISPARITY ONE LINK IN CHAIN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 AMMAN 02015 151152Z

OF US "SABOTAGE PRACTICES" WHICH SAID TO INCLUDE US VETO OF

MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS AT UN AND US ATTEMPT TO DIVIDE LEBANON AND "DISMEMBER THE AREA".

3. DISPUTE VEHEMENT TONE OF EDITORIALS, AR RAYY STATES JORDAN WILL NOT "LAUNCH A FIERCE CAMPAIGN AGAINST WASHINGTON'S ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR COUNTRY" IN ORDER TO MOBILE PSYCHOLOGICALLY POPULATION BECAUSE "THEY ARE ALREADY MOBILIZED". INSTEAD, NATION WILL TAKE CUE FROM WHAT EDITORIAL CALLS PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S "COMPOSED" STATEMENT TO LONDON TIMES. "IMPORTANT THING", EDITORIAL ASSERTS, "IS TO GET THE MISSILES, THE ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS AND THE RADAR NETWORK FROM ANY SOURCE AS LONG AS WE CAN PAY THE PRICE WITH ARAB ASSISTANCE."

4. COMMENT: WHILE TONE OF PRESS COVERAGE THUS FAR WOULD SEEM TO LEAVE LITTLE ROOM FOR DOUBT ON DIRECTION OF GOJ'S THINKING ON HAWKS MATTER, EMBASSY IS RESERVING JUDGEMENT UNTIL KING HUSSEIN'S AND PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S RETURN ON 16 APRIL FROM US-CANADA-UK TRIP. WITHOUT DOWNING ROSE COLORED GLASSES, WE NOTE THAT LOCAL PRESS HAS BEEN OUT IN FRONT OF KING AND PRIME MINISTER BEFORE WHEN LATTER WERE OUT OF COUNTRY. WE ALSO LEARNED FROM CROWN PRINCE YESTERDAY THAT KING HUSSEIN TOLD HIM MORNING 14 APRIL BY TELEPHONE HE WAS UNAWARE OF PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S LONDON TIMES INTERVIEW. WE THINK IT MAY BE NOTEWORTHY, TOO, THAT AR RAYY EDITORIAL QUALIFIED ACQUIRING AIR DEFENSE NETWORK FROM "ANY SOURCE" WITH CAVEAT: "AS LONG AS WE CAN PAY THE PRICE WITH ARAB ASSISTANCE", THUS LEAVING OPEN LOOPHOLE OF POSSIBLE SAUDI RELUCTANCE TO FINANCE SOVIET WEAPONRY IN JORDAN. WHATEVER THE CASE, PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HAS THROWN DOWN GAUNTLET OF SORTS, AND WHILE IT SERVES TO COVER POTENTIAL CRITICISM IN JORDAN THAT KING IS NOT RETURNING WITH AS SPECIFIC GAINS AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD GET IN PREDEPARTURE SPEECH TO NATION, AT SAME TIME IT WILL REQUIRE SOME CONTORTED JUGGLING. RIFAI HAS USED PRESS BEFORE AS TOOL FOR CREATING PRESSURE AND FOR DEVELOPING THEMES THAT SUIT HIS PURPOSE WITH NO NOTALBE RELUCTANCE TO ACT LATER IN CONTRARY FASHION WHEN IT HAS MADE SENSE TO HIM TO DO SO. (SEPTEMBER, 1975 STATEMENT TURNING DOWN HAWKS DEAL WAS BUT ONE EXAMPLE.) PICKERING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, AIR DEFENSE, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN02015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760143-0097
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760460/aaaabymx.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN PRESS ON PRIME MINISTER RIFAI'S COMMENTS ON HAWK AIR DEFENSE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006